



Commissioner Elections Information Session
January 27, 2026

**colorful
bridgeport**

DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT: A MIXED-USE COMMUNITY

Downtown Bridgeport is a friendly, eclectic business and residential community flourishing at the intersection of commerce, community, and culture.

250,000 vehicles pass through Bridgeport everyday. Downtown is proximate to major highways and provides extensive public transportation infrastructure, including train, bus, and ferry service.

Downtown Bridgeport is home to the Read's Artspace artists residence, premier contemporary galleries like BPT Creates, City Lights, and Ursa; and performing arts spaces such as the Bijou Theatre, Downtown Cabaret, and Stress Factory Comedy Club.

The city is regenerating and building on its history of industry and innovation with the many arts, creative, and nightlife or entertainment businesses locating here contributing to and creating its culture.

DAYTIME POPULATION:
126,630

RESIDENT POPULATION:
2,500 and growing



DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT: A COMMUNITY TO CREATE

The Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District (DSSD) is a special taxing district that exists to support economic development and equitable growth in Downtown Bridgeport.

MISSION: We promote the preservation and development of the downtown business district, make the area more attractive and accessible, and enhance the public perception of Downtown Bridgeport through promotion of the commercial district.

VISION: Welcome to Downtown Bridgeport! We are a friendly, eclectic business and residential community flourishing at the intersection of commerce, community, and culture(s).

SERVICES: We bolster the sense of culture and community in the heart of Downtown through the work of our team of friendly Downtown Ambassadors, our Colorful Crew beautification volunteers, and our Colorful Bridgeport marketing, events, and public art.



DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT: A PLACE TO GET INVOLVED

The Board of Commissioners is the governing body that oversees the ways in which the Bridgeport DSSD operates in Downtown Bridgeport. The Board meets once per month to review projects, programs, our financials, and discuss any important issues impacting the neighborhood.

The Bridgeport DSSD is also powered by program committees: Physical Conditions, Public Safety, and Special Events + Marketing.

The Operations Team consists of DSSD President + CEO Lauren Coakley Vincent, Downtown Ambassador Operations Manager Charles Suarez-Penn, and Creative Director Marcella Kovac.

Partnerships are critical to the DSSD's daily functioning, including the participation of residents, business owners, and cultural, educational anchor institutions.

Board of Commissioners

Philip Pires, Chairman
C&W Associates II

David Iassogna, Vice Chair
M&T Bank

Eric Gross, Treasurer
John Broadcannon

Callie Heilmann, Secretary
Made in Bridgeport, LLC

Javier Ceja
Dwntwn Strategic Grp

Alicia Cobb
Downtown Resident

Jason Cohen
Bordentown DB

Gemeem Davis
Bpt Generation Now

Karolyn Egbert
Trefz Corporation

Hugh Hallinan
Downtown Cabaret

Philip Kuchma
Bijou Square

Tony Sherwood
OUR FAVE

Barbara Sreckovic
Downtown Resident

Andy Toledo
*City of Bridgeport
Ex Officio*

Robert Schneider
Jimmy's A&N, Emeritus

DOWNTOWN BRIDGEPORT: A COMMUNITY TO SERVE



Prospective Commissioners must be able to meet these qualifications:

- Own property or hold a formal, written lease within the boundaries of the DSSD: Pequonnock River across to Route 8, and East Washington Avenue down to Interstate 95.
- Be able to attend board meetings on the second Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.

To be included in the annual meeting ballot, applicants must fill out the nomination form with your name, a brief bio, lease verification, and a statement of interest in serving the neighborhood.

Key dates!

- February 2, 2026: Nomination form opens
- February and March 11, 2026: Board of Commissioners meetings
- April 3, 2026: Nomination form closes
- May 13, 2026: DSSD Annual Meeting

QUESTIONS? LET'S CONNECT!

There are so many ways to impact your community. Get involved with the Bridgeport DSSD in these ways:

- I. Sign up for the What's Happening newsletter at colorfulbridgeport.com.
- II. Follow the Bridgeport DSSD on social media @colorfulbridgeport
- III. Attend monthly board meetings and events
- IV. Join or lead a program committee:
 - Physical Conditions – Last Friday @ 8:00a
 - Public Safety – Last Friday @ 8:30a
 - Special Events and Marketing – First Tuesday at 9:00a

